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Message Text

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22-12
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 FEA-01 STR-04 /132 W
---------- 086997
R 110832Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4046
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 676
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 23677

PASS USDEL MTN GENEVA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD:JA:ESCAP:GATT
SUBJECT: ESCAP:TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING AND BANGKOK AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 264668 (B) STATE 258955

1. BANGKOK AGREEMENT (BA) WAS ONLY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AT SUBJECT MEETING BY JAPAN, US, GATT REP.(LEONHARDT) AND SECRETARIAT.

2. JAPAN WELCOMED INITIATIVE TAKEN TO NEGOTIATE BA BUT EXPRESSED "SOME APPREHENSIONS" RE. ITS RELATIONSHIP TO GATT ARTICLE XXIV AND 1971 PROTTCOL AND WONDERED WHEN BA TEXT WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE IN GENEVA.

3. WE DELIVERED US POSITION CONTAINED IN PARA 2, REFTEL B, ADDING THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO LEARN FROM ESCAP SECRETARIAT THAT REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAD NOTIFIED GATT OF BA ON OCTOBER 31, "PRESUMABLY IN
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ACCORDANCE ARTICLE XXIV". (THIS INFORMATION, PRIVATELY CONVEYED

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TO USREF, HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO JAPAN DEL BY US PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF STATEMENT.)

4. GATT REP. LEONHARDT INDICATED HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF GATT NOTIFICATION WHICH TOOK PLACE AT TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM GENEVA. AS "PERSONAL VIEW," HE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT BA ARTICLE 10 (REGARDING EXTENSION OF PREFERENCES) BEING IN BEST INTEREST OF PARTICIPATING STATES OR OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SUSPECTED ARTICLE 10 COULD MAKE FUTURE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LDCS AS A GROUP MORE DIFFICULT. HE UNDERSTOOD TRADE NEGOTIATING GROUP WOULD STUDY THIS ASPECT AT ITS FIFTH SESSION NOV. 11-14 IN BANGKOK.

5. ESCAP SECRETARIAT (PROK) CONFIRMED THAT ONE SIGNATORY COUNTRY ON BEHALF OF SIGNATORIES REPORTED TO GATT COUNCIL OCTOBER 31 THAT BA WAS SIGNED JULY 31. BA OBJECTIVES WERE EXPLAINED AS WELL AS ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE REQUIREMENTS (I.E., AT LEAST THREE SIGNATORIES MUST RATIFY BY JANUARY 31, 1976). TEXT AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL WILL BE PRESENTED TO GATT IN DUE COURSE. PROK STRESSED FACT THAT GATT REP. STATEMENT WAS PERSONAL OPINION AND THAT GATT HAD NOT YET EXAMINED BA TEXT.

6. IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS PAKISTAN REP. INDICATED GOP (WHICH DID NOT SIGN) STILL STUDYING BA TEXT. INDIA REP. APPEARED CONFIDENT INDIA COULD RATIFY BY YEAR'S END, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED BA TEXT MUST STILL BE STUDIED BY SEVERAL MORE MINISTERIAL BODIES. KOREAN AND THAI REPS. MENTIONED BA SIGNATURE IN PASSING WHILE REPS. OF BANGLADESH, LAOS, PHILIPPINES AND SRI LANKA NEVER SAID A WORD.

7. COMMENT: WHILE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETECT WILD ENTHUSIASM FOR BA, CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS THAT BA WOULD GO INTO EFFECT BY JANUARY 31, 1976. IN MEANTIME, IN FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT USREF WAS SUCCESSFUL IN INSERTING FOLLOWING: QUOTE- SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WELCOMED THIS (NOTIFICATION) ACTION WHICH WOULD ENABLE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES TO REVIEW THE AGREEMENT IN DETAIL. UNQUOTE. IN SAME SECTION AS COMPROMISE BETWEEN "COMMITTEE WELCOMED" BA (INDIA) AND "COMMITTEE NOTED" (AUSTRALIA), USREP SUGGESTED "NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST" WHICH WAS READILY ACCEPTED.
WHITEHOUSE

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